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Marine Fisheries Advisory
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ASMFC HEARING ON ADDENDUM V TO THE AMERICAN LOBSTER FMP
Massachusetts to host hearing on February 18, 2004

On Wednesday, February 18 *Marine Fisheries* will host a public hearing to discuss Addendum V to the American Lobster Interstate Fishery Management Plan (FMP). The Massachusetts meeting will take place at 8:30PM on Wednesday, February 18, 2004 at the Holiday Inn – Dedham (55 Ariadne Road; Dedham, MA). Please note that the ASMFC hearing on Amendment 2 to the Herring FMP will take place prior to this meeting at 7PM. For further information on the meeting contact Melanie Griffin at (617) 626-1528. Below is the ASMFC press release detailing the ASMFC approved Draft Addendum V.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE PRESS
January 30, 2004

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ASMFC Releases Draft Lobster Addendum V for Public Comment
State Hearings to be Held in NH, MA & RI

Washington, D.C. – The Commission's American Lobster Management Board has approved Draft Addendum V to Amendment 3 to the Interstate Fishery Management Plan (FMP) for public review and comment. The Draft Addendum solicits additional public input on the maximum trap cap component of the Area 3 transferable trap program.

In December, the American Lobster Board approved Addendum IV. Among other things, the Addendum includes a transferable trap program for Area 3 (offshore waters). This program allows Area 3 lobstermen to transfer trap tags to other lobstermen, and establishes an overall trap cap and conservation taxes for transferring traps.

The public hearing document for Draft Addendum IV outlined an overall trap cap of 2600 traps and a two-tiered tax system that would institute a higher tax when the purchaser owned 2100 traps or more. In response to concerns raised at public hearings that a 2600 trap cap may be too high, the Area 3 Lobster Conservation Management Team amended its original proposal. This new proposal includes a cap of 2200 traps, with a higher tax imposed when the purchaser owns 1800 to 2200 traps. Through Draft Addendum V, the Board seeks public comment on both the original and amended proposals.

Fishermen and other interested groups are encouraged to provide input on the Draft Addendum, either by attending public hearings or providing written comments. Copies of the Draft Addendum can be obtained from the Commission's website at www.asmfc.org under the Breaking News page or by contacting the Commission office at (202)289-6400.

Public comment will be accepted until March 3, 2004, and should be forwarded to Carrie Selberg, American Lobster Fishery Management Plan Coordinator, 1444 Eye Street, NW, Sixth Floor, Washington, DC, 20005; (202)289-6051 (fax); or <cselberg@asmfc.org>. For more information, please contact Carrie Selberg at (202)289-6400.